

Message Text

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PAGE 01 KATHMA 04931 301058Z

12
ACTION NEA-10

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6831
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SUBJ: NEPALESE KING'S VISIT TO MOSCOW

REF: MOSCOW 184970, KATHMANDU 4748

1. NEPALESE GOVERNMENT SOURCES HAVE BEEN PARTICULARLY
RETICENT TO SUPPLY DETAILS OF KING'S VISIT TO MOSCOW AND
HAVE REFERRED US TO TEXT OF JOINT COMMUNIQUE (MOSCOW REFTEL).
WE NOW BELIEVE THAT THIS IS NOT EFFORT TO HIDE ANYTHING,
BUT REFLECTS FACT THAT FEW, IF ANY, SPECIFIC AGREEMENTS WERE
REACHED IN COURSE OF VISIT.

2. BOTH KING'S PRESS SECRETARY AND FOREIGN SECRETARY WHO
ACCOMPANIED KING TO USSR TODAY VISITING DEPUTY ASSISTANT
SECRETARY DUBS THAT DETAILS OF FUTURE ECONOMIC AND TECHNICAL
COOPERATION WOULD BE DISCUSSED AT LOWER LEVELS AND THAT NO
SPECIFIC AGREEMENTS HAD BEEN CONCLUDED DURING VISIT.
ACCORDING TO FOREIGN MINISTRY SOURCE NEPALESE WERE
DISAPPOINTED TO FIND THAT RUSSIANS WERE UNWILLING (OR
UNPREPARED) TO DISCUSS SPECIFIC PROJECTS, ALTHOUGH THEY DID
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PAGE 02 KATHMA 04931 301058Z

INDICATE A GENERAL WILLINGNESS TO PROVIDE SOFT LOANS AND

TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE, PERHAPS FOR TURPENTINE FACTORY. NEPALESE GOT NOWHERE IN THEIR BID FOR LOANS FOR FERTILIZER AND PAPER INSTALLATIONS. DISCUSSIONS ARE SCHEDULED TO TAKE PLACE EARLY NEXT YEAR IN KATHMANDU AIMED AT RESOLVING CONTINUING DIFFERENCES OVER WHERE THE SOVIET SPONSORED VEGETABLE OIL FACTORY SHOULD BE PLACED, FOLLOWING WHICH USSR WILL CONSIDER AGREEMENT ON FUTURE PROJECTS.

3. NEPALESE APPARENTLY FARED NO BETTER IN POLITICAL AREA. ALTHOUGH FEW EXPECTED SOVIETS TO ENDORSE "ZONE OF PEACE" CONCEPT KING REPORTEDLY HOPED FOR GREATER SYMPATHY FOR THE IDEA THAN HE RECEIVED IN PRIAVTE CONVERSATION WITH SOVIET LEADERS. ACCORDING TO ONE SOURCE SOVIETS SAT IN STONY SILENCE FOLLOWING KING'S PLEA FOR UNDERSTANDING OF NEPAL'S SPECIAL PROBLEMS AS LANDLOCKED COUNTRY. WE ALSO UNDERSTAND THAT KING WAS DISAPPOINTED BY LEVEL AND STYLE OF HIS MOSCOW RECEPTION. WHILE WE AGREE WITH EMBASSY MOSCOW (REFTEL) THAT PROTOCL DID NOT DEMAND MEETING WITH BREZHNEV OR KOSYGIN, NEPALESE HAVE SOME DIFFICULTY ACCPETING REALITY OF FACT THAT THEY ARE NOT GREAT IMPORTANCE TO USSR. ONE PALACE ADVISOR HAS TOLD US THAT WHOLE TONE OF VISIT WAS BADLY HANDLED FROM VERY BEGINNING AND SOVIETS LEFT DISTINT IMPRESSION THAT HEY HAD MORE IMPORTANT THINGS TO DO THAN HOST KING OF NEPAL.

4. WE SHARE MOSCOW'S BEWILDERMANT AT NEPALESE WILLINGNESS TO ENDORSE EVERY SOVIET DISARMAMENT PROPOSAL UNDER THE SUN. BUT THIS IS TYPICAL OF MENTALITY OF SOME OF KING'S CLOSEST ADVISORS WHO ADVOCATED A CONCILIATORY GESTURE IN ADVANCE OF VISIT. AS KING RECOGNIZED SIHANOUK REGIME A MONTH BEFORE HIS 1973 VISIT TO CHINA, SO DID HMG ENDORSE SOVIET WORLD DISARMAMENT PROPOSAL IN UN IN ADVANCE OF MOSCOW TRIP. NEPALESE ALSO HOPE TO USE ANY DISARMAMENT FORUM AS OPPORTUNITY TO PRESS THEIR ZONE OF PEACE PROPOSAL, AS WELL AS "RIGHT" TO PROTECTION FROM ECONOMIC AGRESSION. MAYTAG

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